

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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MARKEY, 75 REPS URGE BUSH NOT TO RESUME NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING

Lawmaker suggests US policy reversal could unleash nuclear spiral abroad

WASHINGTON, D.C. --

Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), along with 75 signatories, sent a letter to President Bush today expressing strong opposition to the resumption of underground nuclear testing and the development of a new generation of low-yield nuclear weapons.

"My colleagues in the Congress and I are very concerned about the posture the President is taking with regard to nuclear weapons. The United States must maintain its position as a leader in the global effort to rid the world of nuclear weapons," Rep. Markey stated. "The moratorium on nuclear testing, which was put in place by the President's father and maintained throughout the Clinton administration, has been a cornerstone of America's nonproliferation policy and has allowed us to lead the world by example. Russian officials have stated that if the United States resumes testing, they will be compelled to follow suit."

On the issue of developing new "mini-nukes", to destroy hardened and deeply buried targets such as bunkers and weapons caches, the letter states, "The development of a new generation of low-yield nuclear weapons would send a resoundingly negative signal to allies and potential adversaries alike that the US is abandoning international efforts to stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons."

The letter concludes by asking the President for his "clear and unambiguous assurance that the United States will neither resume underground nuclear test explosions nor pursue the development of new nuclear weapons."

More information can be found at www.house.gov/markey/newsroom.htm

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